

Ask Legislature To Probe Church Fires in Canada

Officials Believe Criminal Gang Responsible for Destruction of Famous \$1,000,000 Quebec Basilica

Only \$200,000 Insurance

Catholic Edifices Worth \$5,000,000 Swept by Flames in Few Months

QUEBEC, Dec. 22.—The series of fires which have swept Catholic institutions in Canada recently, culminating early to-day in the destruction of the historic \$1,000,000 Notre Dame Church, was brought to the attention of the provincial legislature this afternoon, with the suggestion that all might be the work of incendiaries.

Taking the floor after Premier Taschereau had expressed to Cardinal Begin the regret of the legislature at the loss of the famous basilica, Arthur Sasse, leader of the Opposition, said:

"It could not be well to question whether this fire is not the work of a criminal organization? I call the attention of the Attorney General to the fact that within a year we have had to deplore losses of that kind every month."

Letter Threatens Church

A short circuit in the electrical wiring was first held accountable for to-day's blaze, but later Monsignor Lafamme, curé of Notre Dame, presented to Daniel Lorrain, chief of provincial police, the following letter postmarked in Montreal:

"I will burn your church down on December 23."

Suspicious strangers were reported also to have been seen prowling around the church.

The police then began an investigation based on the belief that the fire had been set. That Catholic orders had come to view the cause of fires with suspicion was made evident recently when an announcement was made that bandstands and armed guards would be employed to protect church property and that aged manuscripts and relics would be placed in cement vaults.

A check-up of the damage done by the fire to-day showed that while the cathedral building itself was a total loss the presbytery was damaged only by smoke and water. The host in the cathedral was saved.

Insurance of \$210,500

Insurance amounting to \$210,500 was carried on the basilica. It was split among twenty different companies.

The aged Cardinal began watching the flames consume the basilica and saw them checked only after they had attacked his own palace.

"This is awful," he said. "The good God has placed an awful trial on us. It is the greatest trial of my life."

Many Offers of Help

From all over the country and from persons of the Protestant as well as of the Catholic faith, expressions of sympathy for the loss of the historic cathedral and its priceless treasures have come to-night. Offers of help and assistance in rebuilding the cathedral, a work which is expected to begin soon, were as numerous and as widespread.

Among those who expressed sympathy was Dean Shreve, of the Quebec Anglican Church, who offered the use of the cathedral to the Catholic authorities for observances of the Christmas midnight mass. Arrangements had been previously made, however, to celebrate the mass in the Bonsecours Chapel, and Dean Shreve offered to wait.

"Small traces of flame, leaping fitfully from the top of the wrecked tower of the basilica, could still be seen to-night."

St. Anne de Beaupre's, the first Catholic institution to be visited by fire this year, was destroyed in a spectacular blaze on March 29. Six days later the Church of the Sacred Heart, in Montreal, was destroyed.

The Convent of Notre Dame, in Montreal was destroyed April 18. St. Jean's Hospital for the Insane, in the same city, was seriously damaged by two fires October 3 and 4.

\$300,000 Blaze in Montreal

On November 14, fire, starting on the top floor of the University of Montreal, caused \$300,000 damage. Sixteen days later, the Laval Dental and Medical College at the University was destroyed.

Ten students lost their lives on November 25 when fire destroyed St. Boniface College, one of the oldest and most noted of the Canadian Catholic institutions, and the famous Jesuit library, adjoining.

The Rest house of the Gentlemen of St. Sulpice, at Oka, part of which was used as a presbytery for the parish, was destroyed a few weeks ago, the Church of St. Sulpice was slightly damaged.

After the St. Boniface and St. Sulpice fires officials of the various Catholic orders announced that watch dogs and patrols would be employed to protect Catholic property in the Dominion.

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

MONTREAL, Dec. 22.—Desperate denial by the imperial wizard the belief persists in Quebec province, particularly among Catholics, that the Ku-Klux Klan is responsible for the destruction by fire of the Quebec Basilica and other religious edifices, whose loss in the past year totals over five million dollars.

Major Martin, of Montreal, after inspecting the ruins of the Basilica pronounced emphatically his view that the Klan was blame, although only a few weeks ago he ridiculed the idea that it was responsible for other church and Catholic college fires. Cardinal Begin and Mgr. Lafamme had themselves attempted to allay the fears of local Catholics that agents of the Klan were at work, but following the receipt of threatening letters, the Cardinal sent a letter to all priests in the province and the heads of all orders urging them to redouble precautions.

Burns Loses Vice Raid Bill

Detective's \$4,676 Suit Against Bridgeport Dismissed

The Burns Detective Agency's suit to recover from the former Mayor and Police Commissioner of Bridgeport the remainder of the amount the city failed to pay for the vice crusade conducted by the agency in 1920 was dismissed after eight minutes' deliberation yesterday by a jury sitting before Justice Arthur S. Tompkins in White Plains. Included in the \$4,676.88 claimed were tips, cigars, meals, automobile hire, railroad fare, double pay for an investigator who spent forty-five days in jail for assisting during the raids, and interest for two years.

Major Clifford Wilson and former Commissioner John Stanier asserted in court that all bills for the raids and investigation had been paid to the city and denied that they had promised to be personally responsible for any sum which the municipality might refuse to sever.

Darky Lad Smoke Screen In Orange Cigarette Raid

\$200,000 Thief Leads Police to Victims in Tour

First Night "Job" Ends in Capture for T. F. Belford, 23, in Exciting Chase on West End Avenue

Helps to Recover Loot

Tells Police He Operated Principally in Studio Apartments in Daytime

Detective Lieutenant Patrick Curley and Detectives Sergeants Edward Fitzgerald and William Courtney took a taxi ride around the upper East Side last night, in company with Thomas F. Belford, twenty-three years old, who was arrested early yesterday after an exciting chase on West End Avenue in which several shots were fired.

The police say Belford is responsible for numerous robberies in apartment houses in the vicinity of Fifth and Park avenues in the last few months, and estimates the total lost in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

Belford will not again be tempted to smoke before he attains the age of discretion—at least, not in East Orange.

Court Forbids Morse to Visit Rome for Health

Indicted Shipbuilder Refused Permit to Leave U. S. to See Pope's Doctor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Charles W. Morse, the New York shipbuilder, under indictment here on charges of conspiracy to defraud in connection with wartime contracts, was denied permission in the District of Columbia Supreme Court to-day to go to Rome to consult Dr. Machilavia, the Pope's physician.

Mr. Morse had asked the court for permission to make such a trip on the ground that Dr. Machilavia was best qualified to treat disorders from which he is said to be suffering. The court ruled that the evidence presented did not warrant it in giving authority for the shipbuilder to leave the jurisdiction of the United States.

The prisoner told his captors that he had "pulled a sweet job" on the third floor at 1038 Park Avenue. The police found that Mrs. J. Maynard, of that address, was robbed in October. At 960 Madison Avenue, Belford told of getting two overcoats from an apartment on the second floor. H. Gordon Dubile, who lives on the second floor at that address, told the detectives about two overcoats which had been stolen from him, also in October.

Never Carried a Revolver Incidentally, Belford explained that he confined his operations to non-elevator apartments because there was less chance of a surprise capture.

Belford lives at 169 West Sixty-second Street. He said he never carried a revolver while at work. He was afraid he might shoot himself, he explained.

Arraigned before Magistrate Hatting in West Side Court, he was held without bail on a short affidavit charging burglary. Assistant District Attorney Goodman asked for postponement until December 27 because, he said, Belford had promised the police to help recover the loot and he wanted time to check up on the various crimes.

Working After Hours

According to the story given out by the police, Belford told them he confined his activities principally to studio apartments. His method was to ring the bell, and if there was no response he would give an excuse and walk away. If no one answered he would Jimmy the door and take whatever he could find. He had always worked in the afternoon, he said, and was engaged in his first night job when he was caught.

Mrs. Sadie Bennett, who occupies an apartment at 303 West Ninety-second Street, found him there when she returned shortly after midnight yesterday. Belford ran from the place with jewelry and silverware, valued at \$1,000, but Mrs. Bennett's screams were heard by Detective Sergeants Fitzgerald and Courtney, of the West 100th Street station, who had been assigned to investigate the recent \$10,000 robbery in the home of Frieda Hampel, at 271 Central Park West.

Belford turned south on West End Avenue, with the detectives after him. They fired several shots, but the thief made no attempt. When they caught him at Eighty-seventh Street the detective said he showed fight, but was subdued after a struggle. After he had been questioned a short while at the station Belford told the detectives that he might as well tell everything.

He declared, the police said, that among the apartments he remembered robbing was that of Nita Naldi, motion picture actress, at 48 East Sixty-first

Street, where he took property valued at about \$5,000, and the studio of Lou Tellegen, at 18 East Fifty-seventh Street, from which he took about the same amount.

Acting on other information given him by Belford, the police took Charles Cone, of 82 East Fifty-sixth Street, to the second-story store of Benjamin Bernstein, at 403 West Fifty-ninth Street, where Cone identified articles valued at \$2,500 stolen from his home. Bernstein was locked up in the West 100th Street police station charged with receiving stolen goods. The police seized all the books and records in the place.

Killed on Wedding Eve, Brother Shot, in Fued

Slayer Fugitive in West Va. Mountains After Night Fight in Hills

STEEVENVILLE, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Roy Ledson, twenty-five years old, who was engaged to be married to-morrow, is dead. His brother William, thirty-two, severely wounded, and James Pearson, fifty, is being hunted by deputy sheriffs and West Virginia state police to face a murder charge, the result of fight which came as the climax of a feud between the two families existing for many weeks.

The building was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

Deputy Fire Chief John F. O'Hara and twelve firemen of Engine Company 211 and Truck Company 102 were injured yesterday in the course of a spectacular fire in the two-story frame building at 189 Harrison Avenue, Brooklyn, when the roof and front wall collapsed, burying the men under the debris. For a time there was added danger from an electric lead wire, broken by the falling masonry.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

13 Firemen Hurt As Roof Falls in Brooklyn Blaze

Deputy Chief O'Hara Is Among Those Injured in Spectacular Fire Causing Damage of \$125,000

Deputy Fire Chief John F. O'Hara and twelve firemen of Engine Company 211 and Truck Company 102 were injured yesterday in the course of a spectacular fire in the two-story frame building at 189 Harrison Avenue, Brooklyn, when the roof and front wall collapsed, burying the men under the debris. For a time there was added danger from an electric lead wire, broken by the falling masonry.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

José Martin, with the aid of two policemen, pulled O'Hara, who was unconscious, from the ruins, while firemen worked feverishly to rescue their fellow who had fallen with the wall.

O'Hara was taken to St. Catherine's Hospital, where it was found he was suffering from concussion of the spine, contusions of the face and body and possible internal injuries. He is expected to recover.

The men of Fire Company 102 were taken to the Beth Moses Hospital. They were Captain Henry Sullivan, Oliver Dempsey, Edward Cronin, Arthur Hindner, John Vlaskas and Herman Schmidt. Vlaskas had left the hospital only two days ago, where he had been as the result of injuries received in another fire.

The members of Engine Company 211 were removed to St. Catherine's and Cumberland Street hospitals. They were Captain John Westrick, Lieutenant J. P. Fitzsimmons, William Adams, Charles Markey, Joseph LeGagne and Patrick Scanlon. All of the injured firemen are expected to recover.

The fire attracted a large crowd which required the calling of police reserves to hold them in check. The fire fighters were hampered by lack of sufficient light, and more trouble was caused by the flashing of the broken wires, which almost blinded them.

Druggist Asks Court for Liquor License Renewal

Massachusetts Man Files Bill Complaint Against Federal Dry Head

BOSTON, Dec. 22.—Roy A. Harde, Federal Prohibition Commissioner, was named as defendant in an amended bill of complaint filed in United States District Court here behalf of James H. O'Sullivan, a druggist of Belmont, who asserted that license to sell liquor had been revoked. It was announced that no action would be served on commissioner Haynes by registered mail.

In the original State Prohibition Director Elmer C. Potter was named the only defendant. Counsel for O'Sullivan to-day, however, applied to Judge Anderson to have the bill amended to include the national commissioner.

Judge Anderson will hear the case proceedings resulting in the review of O'Sullivan's permit and to the Federal Commissioner free holding the 1922 permit.

Poles Bury Slain Preacher

WARSAW, Dec. 22 (By the Associated Press).—Gabriel Narutowicz, President of Poland for two days, was met death by an assassin who was buried to-day in a crypt in cathedral. Cardinal Kakowski died.

The ceremonies were attended by new President, the members of Cabinet, the Senate and the Diet. A large representation of diplomats the coffin was lowered all the bunting was lowered all the bugles saluted and 101 guns was fired.

Slayer Fugitive in West Va.

Mountains After Night

Fight in Hills

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Roy Ledson, twenty-five years old, who was engaged to be married to-morrow, is dead. His brother William, thirty-two, severely wounded, and James Pearson, fifty, is being hunted by deputy sheriffs and West Virginia state police to face a murder charge, the result of fight which came as the climax of a feud between the two families existing for many weeks.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville.

Roy Ledson was to have been married to-morrow afternoon to a girl of Weirton. It was stated by members of the family. The cause of the fight this morning is unknown. Members of the two families declined to make statements.

The building was erected in 1910 and contained a series of load elevations. The building was occupied by the Auto Baby Carriage Company, and five adjoining houses and business buildings were also damaged by the blaze. Four alarms were turned in and the firemen fought the flames for over two hours before they brought them under control. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The battle was staged near the Ledson farm at 6 o'clock this morning on the hill east of Weirton, W. Va., across the river from Steeleville